

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01806 072000Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0446

S E C R E T LISBON 1806

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, AO, US

SUBJ: ANGOLAN NORMALIZATION

REF: (A) STATE 049212, (B) LISBON 1596

1. FOLLOWING ARE PARTIAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN
PARA 2 REF A. MORE DETAILED COMMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED
AFTER NEXT MEETING WITH FERREIRA.

-- (A) REGARDING NETO'S CHARGES OF FEBRUARY
24, FERREIRA COMMENTED TO EMBOFF DURING REF B
MEETING THAT ANGOLA KNEW THAT CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
SPECIFICALLY ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA, WERE DIRECTLY
SUPPORTING FNLA, UNITA AND FLEC GUERRILLA OPERATIONS AGAINST
LEGAL RPA GOVT. HE SAID THAT SOME PERSONS IN NETO GOVT
BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO INVOLVED, AT LEAST
INDIRECTLY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT NETO DID
NOT BELIEVE THESE ACCUSATIONS, AND THAT HE HIMSELF THOUGHT
CHARGES OF U.S. INTERFERENCE/SUPPORT WERE BEING MADE
STRICTLY FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL PURPOSES. FERREIRA WAS
APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS BY NETO TO MAKE PUBLIC
ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE U.S.

-- (B) WE INTERPRET FERREIRA COMMENTS THWT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD
TAKE PLACE "AT EMBASSY LEVEL" AS A GENERIC STATEMENT, REFLECTING
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RPA'S DESIRE FOR RECOGNITION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID
THAT ONCE THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE NETO GOVT., PROBLEMS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE MORE EASILY AND QUICKLY
RESOLVED. HOWEVER, FERREIRA WAS DELIBERATELY VAGUE IN SUGGESTING
WHAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE AND DID NOT MENTION LUANDA SPECIFICALLY
AS LOCUS FOR FURTHER TALKS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN
LISBON 0911, OFFER IN STATE 021182 WAS PASSED EXACTLY AS

SUGGESTED AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION INDICATED FERREIRA UNDERSTOOD MESSAGE THOROUGHLY. EMBOFF REMINDED FERREIRA OF THIS CLEARLY STATED U.S. POSITION, AND SUGGESTED THAT MANY STEPS AND LEVELS OF NEGOTIATION WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE DECISION ON FORMAL RECOGNITION COULD BE MADE.

2. DCM WILL DISCUSS POINTS RAISED IN REF A WITH FERREIRA AS SOON AS SUITABLE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. AT THIS POINT EMBASSY SEES NO REASON NOT TO CONTINUE USING FERREIRA AS CHANNEL TO NETO.

3. FYI: REGRET MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING DATE OF MEETING. FERREIRA WAS UNABLE MEET WITH EMBOFF UNTIL FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 18. LOCAL FOLLOWUP ACTIONS DELAYED PREPARATION OF REPORTING TELEGRAM.

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